

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel claim 3** without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A pneumatic tire comprising

a tread portion provided with at least one wide circumferential groove,

the wide circumferential groove extending continuously in the tire circumferential direction and having a groove width GW of not less than 5% of the ground contacting width TW,

the wide circumferential groove provided in the groove bottom with a groove bottom rib,

the groove bottom rib extending continuously along the overall length of the wide circumferential groove,

the groove bottom rib having a height Hr in a range of from 0.5 to 3.0 mm and a base width Wr in a range of from 10 to 30 % of the groove width GW, and

the groove bottom rib provided in the top face with a small groove having a depth Dr of less than the height Hr, wherein

the groove bottom of the wide circumferential groove is provided on each side of the groove bottom rib with knurled

parts intermittently disposed in the longitudinal direction of the wide circumferential groove, and the knurled parts are each made up of small ribs extending crosswise to the longitudinal direction of the wide circumferential groove.

2. (currently amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the depth D_r of the small groove is in a ~~range~~ range of from 30 to 60 % of the rib height H_r .

3. canceled.

4. (original) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the wide circumferential groove is provided on at least one of the edges with a down slope towards the groove bottom.

5. (original) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said at least one wide circumferential groove is only one wide circumferential groove disposed within a half tread portion on one side of the tire equator.

6. (new) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the top face of the groove bottom rib is provided only with said small groove.

7. (new) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said small ribs are inclined at an angle of 20 to 70 degrees with respect to the longitudinal direction of the wide groove.
8. (new) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said small ribs are lower in height than the groove bottom rib.
9. (new) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said small ribs are parallel each other.
10. (new) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the knurled parts are staggered along the groove bottom rib.
11. (new) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein on each side of the groove bottom rib, the knurled parts are disposed at circumferential pitches P less than a ground contacting length.
12. (new) A pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein the circumferential pitches P are in the range of from 30 to 50% of the ground contacting length.
13. (new) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the number of the knurled parts on each side of the groove bottom rib is such that at least one knurled part is always present in

a foot print of the tire during running.

14. (new) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said tread portion is provided with lateral grooves connected to the wide circumferential groove.